

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EVANGELIST DELLA MAE KING SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the life and legacy of Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton of Nesbit, Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Evangelist Sutton was a mighty woman of God. She devoted countless hours to empower those around her in formal and Christian education. Born July 20, 1941 in Desoto County, MS, Ms. Della was the first daughter to the late Turner King, Sr. and the late Remell Bridgeforth King.

Ms. Sutton began her education at Shiloh M.B. Church in Desoto County, MS where her father was the instructor. She continued her education as an honor student at Hernando High School, which taught students up until eighth grade, and completed her studies as class Valedictorian. Upon leaving Hernando High, Ms. Della finished her secondary education at the age of sixteen at Eastern High School in Olive Branch, MS, where she was Salutatorian of her graduating class before enrolling in Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, MS. It was there where she would meet her companion in life, her husband, Mr. Jesse Sutton, Jr. After completing studies at Mississippi Industrial College, Ms. Sutton earned her Master's of Science degree from Jackson State University.

Ms. Della Mae sincerely believed in children and the value of educating them. Ms. Sutton served as a devoted educator for more than thirty years throughout Mississippi. These schools included East Side High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi; Oakley Training School in Learned, Mississippi; Mendenhall Junior High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi; and Northside Elementary School in Pearl, Mississippi, from which she retired.

Throughout the years, Ms. Sutton has been recognized on several occasions. Most notably, she was recognized by former Governor and First Lady Ronnie Musgrove as one of the Most Outstanding Women for the Reach One-Each One Mother of the Year contest. She served as Chairperson of the Elementary Language Arts and was recognized for a host of other achievements. Ms. Sutton was the recipient of a number of awards, among them are the Who's Who Among Teachers, Teacher of the Year and most recently the Jackson District Association's Living Legacy Award.

Ms. Sutton was a socially engaged woman. She was a member of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, member of "Keep Jackson Beautiful", instructor of the Jackson District Ministers' Wives/Widows group, and an avid supporter of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. She was an active member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention and a devoted member of the New McRaven Hill M.B. Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Mother's Ministry, devotional leader of the Mission Society and Vacation Bible School teacher.

This spiritual steward for Christ lived a life of both passion and purpose. She was an advocate of education, a champion of civility and a true lover of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of a true champion, Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton.

RECOGNIZING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. ROOSEVELT LEE, SR. OF KOSCIUSKO, MS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Roosevelt Lee, Sr. of Kosciusko, MS as a father, husband and agricultural entrepreneur in recognition of his 109th birthday. Born October 23, 1902 to Mr. Tom Lee and Mrs. Mary Young Lee, Roosevelt is the eldest and last surviving of nine siblings, all of which he helped his father care for. Mr. Lee is the father of eighteen (18) children, grandfather to sixty (60) grandchildren, and great-grandfather to more than fifty (50) great-grandchildren.

During a period when educational resources for African Americans were scarce, Mr. Lee managed to receive a third-grade education which was offered out of a local church in Kosciusko, where he is a native. At a very young age Mr. Lee committed his time and talent to working to help support his family; he worked as a farmer, mechanic, and raiser of cattle and other livestock.

He is a devoted Christian and passionate steward of the Lord. He was a member of the Mount Ollie Missionary Baptist Church in Kosciusko, MS for 67 years where he actively served as Sunday school superintendent, treasurer, head deacon, and trustee. Currently, he is a member of the Bell Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Clarksdale and has been for the past eight years.

Mr. Lee is a member of the Sir Knight Masons of Clarksdale, MS. He has selflessly devoted his time to helping other local farmers maintain and repair their farming equipment and vehicles. Mr. Lee's work ethic and commitment to providing for his family has allowed his family to keep its farm for 81 years. He was a producer of cotton, corn, soybeans and a number of other crops.

In October of 2007, Mayor Henry Epsy of Clarksdale, Mississippi, declared October 27th as Roosevelt Lee, Sr. Day. At the seasoned age of 109, Mr. Lee does not suffer from commonly prominent illnesses such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart issues or diabetes. He enjoys boxing, wrestling, and he has a passion for the game of checkers. He has frequented Chicago, St. Louis, California, Atlanta and a host of other U.S. cities and states.

Mr. Lee truly believes that his commitment to Christ has sustained him throughout his life. He believes that if you serve the Lord and do the right thing, regardless of what the next person does, God will bless you. He is a true example of the wondrous works of the Lord and what it means to be a provider for your family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating a true champion of life, Mr. Roosevelt Lee, Sr., for his tenacity and zealous work as a farmer, father and fine American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on June 3 and 4, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following rollcall votes: No. 184 for H.R. 1206 and No. 188 on Agreeing to the First Broun of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 2216. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 184 and "nay" on rollcall No. 188.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM RASPBERRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the honorable Mr. William Raspberry. Mr. Raspberry was born on October 12, 1935 to proud parents Mr. James Lee and Mrs. Willie Mae Raspberry. A native of Okolona, Mississippi, Mr. Raspberry has become a celebrated writer as a result of his commentary on social and political issues.

Mr. Raspberry received his Bachelor's of Science Degree from Indiana Central College, now known as The University of Indianapolis, in 1958. After receiving his degree, he served as a public information officer with the United States Army from 1960 until 1962, at which time he began working at the Washington Post as a teletypist. In 1966 he was named as a columnist for the Washington Post, and in that same year, Mr. Raspberry married Sondra Patricia Dodson and together they had three children Patricia D., Angela D., and Mark J.

As a result of his exemplary contributions in literature, Mr. Raspberry was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1982, and received the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1994.

Mr. Raspberry has dictated his strong opinions about the problems in American society through his work with the Washington Post. He has been noted for writing about education, criminal justice, family, and racial matters in America. Mr. Raspberry has often been quoted in many different publications and has also been asked to speak at various conferences and seminars.

In addition to providing a weekly column in the Washington Post, Mr. Raspberry has also served in other capacities throughout his lifetime. He served as a journalism instructor at Howard University from 1971–1973; Member of the Board of Advisers, Poynter Institute for Media Studies, 1984; Member of the Board of Visitors, University of Maryland School of Journalism, 1985; television commentator for WTTG, Washington, D.C., 1973–1975; Television Discussion Panelist, WRC-TV, Washington, D.C., 1974–1975, and a Member of the Pulitzer Prize Board, 1979–1986. As of 2008, Mr. Raspberry has also served as the President of "Baby Steps", a parent training and empowerment program based in Okolona, Mississippi.

He is also the author of Looking Backward at Us, a collection of his columns from the 1980's. Mr. Raspberry has received honorary

degrees from Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and the University of Indianapolis; he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Colby College. He was also the Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University. During his career Mr. Raspberry, has also served as a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Capitol Press Club, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. William Raspberry for his exceptional contributions to our community and to our society as whole.

HONORING HOLLIS WATKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. Thompson of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Hollis Watkins who was born in July 29, 1941, in Lincoln County, Mississippi near the town of Summit. He is the youngest and twelfth child of sharecroppers, John and Lena Watkins who were able to purchase a farm during 1949.

Mr. Watkins graduated from Lincoln County Training School in 1960. During his youth, he attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) youth meetings led by Medgar Evers. He met Robert Parris Moses, commonly known as Bob Moses, who was organizing for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961. Mr. Watkins joined SNCC and began canvassing potential voters around McComb, Mississippi. He participated in McComb's first sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter and was jailed for 34 days. During his time in jail, he was threatened on several occasions, including once being shown a noose and told that he would be hung that night. Later, his participation in a walk out at McComb's colored high school led to 39 more days in jail.

Mr. Watkins' activism had a personal price, as many of his extended family ostracized him and would not recognize him in public for fear of losing their jobs in white reprisals.

Veron Dahmer, president of the Forrest County, Mississippi NAACP asked SNCC for help with voter registration and Mr. Watkins moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to help with that project. He worked half days at Dahmer's sawmill to pay his way, and spent the rest of the time organizing voter registration projects.

Mr. Watkins was one of many people spied upon by the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, which investigated civil rights workers and created files on them for government use. His name appears in the files 63 times. Some of the reports refer to him as a communist, although he had little idea what that even meant at the time.

Mr. Watkins traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey for the 1964 Democratic Party convention in support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), which attempted to unseat the regular Mississippi Democratic Party as the true representatives of the state.

He was present when Fannie Lou Hamer gave her testimony to the credentials committee, and later when Hamer and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. debated over whether the MFDP should accept the compromise of two seats at the convention offered by Lyndon Baines Johnson.

In 1988, Mr. Watkins returned to the Democratic Party National Convention as a delegate for Jesse Jackson, Sr.'s Presidential Campaign. Beginning in 1989 Mr. Watkins joined, and now serves as President of Southern Echo, a group dedicated to providing assistance to civil rights and education-reform groups throughout the south. He was honored by Jackson State University with a Fannie Lou Hamer Humanitarian Award in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hollis Watkins for his dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM LEE AND THE YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. William Lee and the YMCA of Greater New York for their impeccable efforts to provide support and services to all New Americans.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Dr. "Bill" Lee became a student leader at the Korean YMCA. As he immigrated with his young family to New York to complete his graduate medical education, Dr. Lee became aware of the unique challenges facing newly arrived immigrants and he has worked diligently over the past decades to combat these challenges.

Bill Lee has served as a board member of the YMCA of New York City from 1982–1996 and again since 2005. He also served on the YMCA of the USA Board of Directors from 1995–2004, and continues to have a lifelong relationship with the YMCA both in Korea and in the United States. With support from Dr. Lee and others, the YMCA of Greater New York established New American Welcome Centers throughout the City, including the Flushing YMCA in my Congressional District. These Centers help immigrants achieve literacy, cultural competence, and self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, drawing on his own experience as a young immigrant who faced much adversity, Dr. Lee was able to turn his experiences into positive solutions for the newly arrived immigrants he saw in New York City. He successfully fundraised and organized the Korean Center of the Flushing YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greater New York that served new Korean immigrants with English-language classes and programs for newly arrived Korean families. As organizing chair of the International branch of the New York City YMCA, he championed the New Americans program, carefully outlining the needs of new immigrants, and the importance of working collaboratively with a strong referral network of service providers. He also closely monitored the

initial years of the start-up and roll-out of six centers.

This week, Dr. Lee and Jack Lund, President of the YMCA of Greater New York, are visiting Washington, DC, to participate in a "Champions of Change" celebration hosted by the White House in honor of the Obama Administration's commitment to expanding programs and services to the immigrant population of the New York City.

A renowned cardiologist, Dr. Lee never fails to give back to his community. He has shaped one of the most successful programs in the YMCA through his belief that helping new arrivals succeed will be repaid many times over in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in paying tribute to Dr. William Lee and to the YMCA of Greater New York for their years of assistance to Korean Americans and to the entire City of New York.

HONORING MRS. SARAH KIMBROUGH HART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart, a remarkable public servant.

Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart, a 90 year old native of Lexington, Miss., who is the widow of the late Harrison aka "HB" Hart, a well-known farmer and strong community leader. She was born May 9, 1922 to Daniel and Rebecca Kimbrough of the Shady Grove Community in the hills of Holmes County. She is the third of eight children (all females). Seven of whom are deceased.

Mrs. Hart and her husband marched and protested injustices during the civil rights movement in Holmes County. They were among the very early African Americans who registered to vote after meeting would-be opposition for the County Registrar.

Mrs. Hart often shares the story of how the Voting Registrar would ask them idiotic questions like "how many bubbles are in a bar of soap" or "how many strains of hairs are on a person's head" just to discourage them from registering, but they would not give up. They kept returning to the Holmes County Court House until they were allowed to register. She and her husband also housed civil rights workers (freedom riders) from up north in their home. They contributed money and resources to the movement. They were also integral parts of the efforts to bring the first black doctor to Holmes County. Mrs. Hart is the mother of eight adult children, one deceased, and a number of grands, greatgrands and great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Sarah Kimbrough Hart for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.